

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8758

S E C R E T USUN 3333

NODIS/CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK/TURKISH DISPUTE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL:

BITSIOS/BENNETT CONVERSATION

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AT HIS REQUEST AT NOON TODAY. BITSIOS HAD WITH HIM DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER STAVROPOULOS AND AMBASSADORS CARAYANNIS AND PAPOULIAS. BITSIOS SAID THE PRUPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO INQUIRE WHERE THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL OF SATURDAY MORNING STOOD. BITSIOS INDICATED THAT THE GREEKS CLEARLY WANTED BOTH A RESOLUTION, AND AN AGREEMENT FROM THE TURKS TO CONTROL THE FUTURE OPERATION OF SISMIL. HE WAS PREPARED TO "SUSPEND" GREEK APPLICATION TO ICJ ON BASIS AGREED FORMULA. HE ELABORATED THAT THE FORM OF THE OUTCOME OF THIS DEBATE IS IMPORTANT TO THE GREEKS; WHEREAS WITH THE TURKS THE TEXT WAS WHAT MATTERED. HE INSISTED PM CARAMANLIS COULD NOT ACCEPT A CONSENSUS STATEMENT. HE SAID THAT, AS FOR THE SECRETARY'S SATURDAY PROPOSAL, THE GREEK SIDE ACCEPTED THE PROCEDURE AS OUTLINED SATURDAY. BITSIOS SAID "THIS SORT OF UNDERSTANDING" COULD BE

A FOLLOW-UP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE. TO THE EXTENT THIS ARRANGEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT, THEN GREEKS COULD ACCEPT "WATERED-DOWN" LANGUAGE OF LATEST DRAFT (USUN 3321).

3. AT THIS POINT, I SUGGESTED HIS MONDAY STATEMENT (USUN 3248) HAD SEEMED TO US A GREEK REJECTION OF

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SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL. WE HAD REGRETTEED THAT POSITION

ON PART OF GREEKS. DITSIOS ANSWERED INDIRECTLY BY REFERRING TO THE NECESSITY FOR THE GREEK GOVT TO HAVE A RESOLUTION. HE SAID A PUBLIC APPEAL IN SC (SUCH AS ONE SUGGESTED BY SC PRESIDENT) COULD PROVIDE NO RE-ASSURANCE THAT THE SISMİK WOULD LIMIT ITS ACTIVITIES. THE UNDERSTANDING IN THIS REGARD WOULD HAVE TO BE BETWEEN THE THREE OF US AND KEPT SECRET TO PROTECT TURKEY.

4. BITSIOS REFERRED TO HSI CONVERSATION ON AUGUST 16 WITH ME (USUN 3248), REPEATING THE FOUR POINTS HE CONVEYED THEN. HE STRESSED THERE WAS NO AVENUE FOR THE GREEKS TO FOLLOW TOWARD PEACEFUL BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IF THE SISMİK CONTINUES ITS OPERATIONS. HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE BILATERAL TALKS WITH TURKS, EVEN HERE IN NEW YORK IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF SC RES, BUT THAT WOULD HAVE TO COME AFTER SISMİK CEASED ITS OPERATIONS IN DISPUTED AREAS.

5. WE THEN DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE LATEST WORKING PAPER. BITSIOS' OBSERVATIONS ON THE DRAFT WERE PROMISED FOR LATER TODAY. HE ASSERTED AGAIN THAT IT WAS A "WATERED-DOWN" DRAFT AND THAT THERE WAS A TREND TO GENERALIZE ITS SCOPE, SUCH AS WITH THE USE OF PLURAL WORDS. I DISPUTED THIS WHERE APPROPRIATE AND POINTED OUT SOME PARTS WERE STRONGER FROM GREEK STANDPOINT.

6. AS TO POSSIBLE MEETING WITH TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL, BITSIOS REMARKED THAT THEY HAD NOT YET MET (CONTRARY TO FRENCH REPORT EARLIER), BUT SAID HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO SO IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE RESOLUTION WAS OUT OF THE WAY. BITSIOS SAID HE WOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD BEEN READY TO MEET SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WITH CAGLAYANGIL TO PUT THE FINAL TOUCHES TO THE FIR NEGOTIATIONS BUT THE SISMİK'S ACTIVITIES HAD HALTED THOS PLANS.

7. FINALLY, BITSIOS REPORTED THAT, WHEN HE SAW SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ABE LAST EVENING, THEY HAD DISCUSSED A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT IN SC THROUGH WHICH

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GREECE WOULD AGREE TO SUSPEND ITS APPLICATION BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AND TURKEY WOULD AGREE TO LIMIT THE EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES OF THE SISMİK. BITSIOS SAID HE DID NOT HAVE ATHENS' AUTHORITY FOR A STATEMENT, AND MOVEOVER HE UNDERSTOOD TURKS WOULD HAVE TO KEEP SECRET A COMMITMENT NOT TO SEND OUT THE SISMİK. SUCH COMMITMENT COULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS. IF THE US WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN A POSITIVE

RESPONSE IN PRINCIPLE FROM THE TURKS, THEN THE DETAILS  
COULD BE WORKED OUT, HOPEFULLY THROUGH A VISIT TO NEW  
YORK BY SECRETARY KISSINGER OR HABIB. BITSIOS MADE CLEAR  
THAT, ALTHOUGH GREEK AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON FULLY INFORMED, HE  
WISHED TO CENTRALIZE HIS NEGOTIATIONS IN NEW YORK.

8. I LEFT BITSIOS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT I  
WOULD INFORM DEPT AND GET BACK TO HIM LATER.  
BENNETT

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRITORIAL WATERS, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, UNSC RESOLUTIONS, AEGEAN, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 08/19/76  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976USUNN03333  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** P850038-2414, N760006-0373  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Office:** ACTION NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <03 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GREEK/TURKISH DISPUTE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL: BITSIOS/BENNETT CONVERSATION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PEPR, GR, TU, US, UNSC, ICJ, (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006